

Attorney Docket No. 101792-200

U.S. Serial No. 10/077,727

Page 5 of 9

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APR 09 2007

REMARKS

By virtue of the outstanding Advisory Action, claims 2, 4, 6-11, 35-37 and 40 were examined. Claims 2, 4, 6-11, 35-37, and 40 stand rejected and no claims are allowed.

By this Amendment, claims 2 and 10 have been amended, and no new claims have been added. Accordingly, claims 2, 4, 6-11, 35-36 and 40 are presented for further examination. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Advisory Action, it is stated at page 7 thereof that "it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., transchelation that is not complete) are not recited in the rejected claims." Responsive to this comment in the Advisory Action, claim 2 has been amended to require that the core of the composite particle consist essentially of surface oxidized copper powder or a compound selected from cuprous oxide, copper hydroxide, and combinations. This claim limitation insures that transchelation of the shell with pyrithione from the shell is not complete. The shell has also been limited by amendment to require that the shell consists essentially of copper pyrithione.

Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 2, 4 and 6-10 and 40 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by, or in the alternative under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,540,860 to Hosseini et al. alone or if necessary, in further view of the specification and examples of that reference.

Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is untenable and should be withdrawn. Hosseini et al. relates to a process for producing a gel-free dispersion or solution of copper pyrithione employing at least one surfactant. The working examples of Hosseini et al. relate to the preparation of copper pyrithione. There is no suggestion in Hosseini et al. of a composite particle having a core consisting essentially of the presently-recited copper or copper compound.

More specifically, Hosseini discloses the chelation of a copper salt such as copper chloride with a pyrithione salt such as sodium pyrithione to produce particles of copper pyrithione in an aqueous solution of sodium chloride. However, no composite particles are formed having a shell and core, but rather simply particles of copper pyrithione. Accordingly,

Attorney Docket No. 101792-200
U.S. Serial No. 10/077,727
Page 6 of 9

Hosseini does not disclose the instantly claimed composite particles, inherently or otherwise, or suggest such composite particles.

Preparation of copper pyrithione itself does not disclose or suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art how to make or produce a biocidal composition comprising composite particles having a shell and a core, particularly particles wherein the core consists essentially of surface oxidized copper powder or a copper-containing compounds selected from cuprous oxide, copper hydroxide, and combinations thereof.

Furthermore, Hosseini et al. discloses overcoming or avoiding gelation or thickening experienced in a dispersion or solution of copper pyrithione. As stated in Hosseini et al.:

the efficacy of the surfactant(s) employed in the process of the present invention, in overcoming or avoiding the above-described gelation or thickening problem, is believed by the present inventors to be attributable to the chemical affinity between the copper pyrithione (a polar molecule) and the molecules of the surfactant. It is believed that this affinity reduces or eliminates the propensity of the copper pyrithione molecules to hydrogen-bond to each other, thereby reducing or eliminating agglomeration of the copper pyrithione molecules.
(Col. 2, lines 30-40).

Since Hosseini et al. describes reducing or eliminating the bonding of copper pyrithione molecules to one another, Applicants submit that Hosseini et al. teaches away from the present invention. Applicants submit that copper pyrithione molecules that do not bond to one another cannot properly be seen as composite particles having a shell and a core of any kind, much less ones having a copper pyrithione shell as recited in the instantly claimed invention.

It is alleged in the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7 of the outstanding Final Rejection that Hosseini discloses the instantly claimed invention at column 2, lines 6-16 thereof. However all that is disclosed in that portion of the reference are various shapes of copper pyrithione particles which may contain a trace amount of surfactant on the outer surface of the particles. This does not disclose or suggest the instantly claimed composite particles containing a shell consisting essentially of the presently-recited component and a core containing reaction product (copper pyrithione) at the shell/core interface. In other words, rather than a "coating" such as a surfactant coating, the instantly claimed shell is chemically bound to the core at the shell/core

Attorney Docket No. 101792-200
U.S. Serial No. 10/077,727
Page 7 of 9

interface, and the shell consists essentially of a pyrithione-free copper component as instantly claimed.

Since Hosseini et al. does not teach or suggest the instantly claimed biocidal composition, but rather teach away from it. Accordingly, the outstanding claim rejection based upon this reference is untenable and should be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 4 and 6-11 and 40 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosseini et al. alone or view of the specification and U.S. Patent No. 5,342,437 to Gavin et al. It is pointed out in the outstanding office action that Hosseini et al. particles differ from the composition of claim 10 and claim 11 by failing to teach utilizing a "fatty acid coating." Instead, the Office Action relies on Gavin et al. as teaching incorporating fatty acids into pyrithione compositions prior to incorporation into manufacturing articles, and that this solves the gelation problem that might otherwise exist. Nonetheless, the teaching of Gavin et al. does not suggest biocidal compositions of comprising composite particles, much less suggest the instantly claimed invention.

Hosseini et al. has been discussed above as teaching away from the present invention. The outstanding Office Action questions such teaching away. From the quoted portion of the Hosseini given above, it is clear that Hosseini employs surfactant to avoid agglomeration of the copper pyrithione disclosed therein. However, even if agglomerated, a combination of copper pyrithione particles does not suggest the instantly claimed composite particles being chemically bonded at the shell/core interface. Gavin et al discloses a paint and paint base and a process and composition for providing a stable gel-free dispersion of zinc pyrithione plus cuprous oxide in paint.

The rejection based on the combination of these reference is untenable as the result sought to be achieved by the combination of the references does not disclose or suggest a biocidal composition comprising composite particles containing a shell and core, as claimed in the instant application. For example, Hosseini et al. discloses a gel-free dispersion or solution of copper pyrithione employing at least one surfactant. As discussed in more detail above, Applicants submit that Hosseini et al. actually teaches away from the instantly claimed invention by virtue of its disclosing methodology to reduce or eliminate the agglomeration of copper pyrithione. Gavin et al. discloses the incorporation of fatty acids into pyrithione compositions in

Attorney Docket No. 101792-200
U.S. Serial No. 10/077,727
Page 8 of 9

order to avoid gelation. This disclosure can be viewed as another method of avoiding particle agglomeration. Accordingly, when viewed singly or in combination, neither reference suggests composite particles of the instantly claimed invention. Accordingly, the rejection of the instant claims based upon that combination is believed to be untenable and should be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 2, 4, 6-11, and 40 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosseini et al. alone in view of the specification (e.g. page 7, figures and examples) and examples (e.g. example 1) to demonstrate inherency and Gavin et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,342,437 (8/94). Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is untenable and should be withdrawn.

Hosseini et al. is discussed in more detail above. The Examiner notes in the outstanding office action, Kappock et al. teach transchelation. However, contrary to the present invention, Kappock et al. teaches complete transchelation of zinc with a soluble pyrrhione salt to produce an insoluble pyrrhione salt. (See col. 3, lines 28-32), namely zinc pyrrhione. This disclosure does not teach or suggest copper pyrrhione in a composite particle having a core consisting essentially of surface-oxidized copper powder or a copper-containing compound selected from the group consisting of cuprous oxide, copper hydroxide and combinations thereof.

As Hosseini et al. and Kappock et al. teach away from the biocidal composition of the present invention. This is not surmise, but rather a conclusion based on the specific teachings of the references themselves. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is untenable and should be withdrawn.

In summary, Applicants submit that none of the references, alone or in combination, anticipate or make obvious the invention as presently claimed and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request consideration of the amended claims, and an early receipt of a Notice of Allowance of the claims as amended.

APR 09 2007

Attorney Docket No. 101792-200

U.S. Serial No. 10/077,727

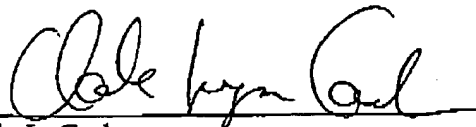
Page 9 of 9

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the claims in their amended form, and an early receipt of a Notice of Allowance thereof. Any fees due with this Reply may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 23-1665 under Customer Number 27267.

Respectfully submitted,
David F. Gavin, et al.

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